

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The specification has been amended to include section headings and, thereby, overcome the applied objection. No new matter is introduced by these amendments.

Claims 11, 23, and 24 have been canceled, and claims 1-4, 6, 8, 9, 15, 17, and 19-21 have been amended. Claim 25 has been newly added. Support for the amendments is provided for example in original claims 1 and 11.

Claims 1-24 were rejected, under 35 USC §102(b), as being anticipated by El-Gamal et al. (US 2001/0034868).

To the extent these rejections may be deemed applicable to the amended claims, the Applicants respectfully traverse as follows.

Claim 1 now recites features of original claim 11 and defines a method of encoding an information bit sequence forming a code block.

According to this method, the k bits of the information bit sequence are distributed among n code block segments, having bit lengths k_1 to k_n , and one or more code block segments is supplemented with additional information bits, by partial repetition of the information bit sequence, that have been distributed to another code block segment or by zero stuffing. Each code block segment is then individually encoded.

The claimed subject matter provides an advantage of increasing the error correction capability of received data through repetition coding (see specification page 3, lines 16-32).

The Applicants note that El-Gamal does not disclose varying the length of a code block or a code block segment, as is achieved by the instant claimed subject matter.

Although the Office Action proposes that El-Gamal discloses the subject matter of claim 11 in paragraph [0045], the Applicants submit that El-Gamal does not identify the length of a code block/code block segment in paragraph [0045] and does not indicate that code blocks/code block segments may have different lengths. As described in the instant published specification, a code block/code block segment is a logical unit of information bits that is encoded independently of all other code blocks/code block segments (see published specification, paragraphs [0034]-[0043]).

El-Gamal does not disclose that some code blocks/code block segments may be of different lengths than other code blocks/code block segments. As a result, El-Gamal does not identically disclose the Applicants' claimed subject matter.

Accordingly, the Applicants submit that El-Gamal does not anticipate the subject matter now defined by claim 1. Independent claim 25 similarly recites the above-mentioned subject matter distinguishing method claim 1 from El-Gamal, but with respect to an apparatus. Therefore, allowance of claims 1 and 25 and all claims dependent therefrom is warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/James Edward Ledbetter/

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JEL/DWW/att

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